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*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
*Practice limited to Federal Agencies

February 12, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Art Unit 1637

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 10/026,952; Filed: December 27, 2001
For: **Primers and Methods for the Detection and Discrimination of Nucleic Acids**
Inventors: Nazarenko *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4980006/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Fee Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/17);
2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
3. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111;
4. PTO Credit Card Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of **\$420.00** to cover the extension of time fee; and
5. Return postcard.

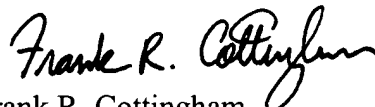
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
February 12, 2004
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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FRC/pcd
Encls.

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